

Message Text

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DEPT. PASS NAC AGENCIES

MANILA FOR USADB

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EEC, ID
SUBJECT: EC PLANS TO COOPERATE WITH ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ON
INDONESIAN AGRICULTURAL PROJECT

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 12140, B(B) MANILA 19081 (NOTAL),
(C) EC BRUSSELS A-456, (D) EC BRUSSELS 3780

1. THE EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF ASIAN AFFAIRS,
JOHN HANSEN, DISCUSSED WITH MISSION OFFICER EC PLANS TO
PROVIDE A ONE MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT GRANT (\$1.2 MILLION)
TO INDONESIA FOR AN INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL PILOT PROJECT
IN SUMATRA. (SEE REF A.) HANSEN EXPLAINS THAT THE
NOVEMBER 8 EC COUNCIL OF DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS ASKED THE EC
TO COOPERATE WITH THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) ON THIS
PROJECT; FOR THIS REASON THE EC HAS ARRANGED FOR THE ADB TO
ASSUME A LIMITED ROLE IN THE PROJECT. THE ADB PLANS TO
ASSIST IN DRAWING UP THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND IN
ADMINISTERING THE PROJECT. THE ADB, HOWEVER, WILL NOT
BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION OR FOR THE
SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS. HANSEN BELIEVES THE BANK'S
BOARD WILL TAKE UP THE PROJECT PROPOSAL ON ABOUT
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DECEMBER 23. THE COMMISSION WILL ASSIGN AN OFFICER TO

BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF THE PROJECT PREPARATION.

2. HANSEN ADDS THAT THE PILOT PROJECT WILL EXPERIMENT WITH A NUMBER OF CROPS, ESPECIALLY CORN, SOYABEANS AND KENAF (IT WILL ALSO ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP SUMATRA'S TIMBER RESOURCES. THE EC HAS ALREADY FINANCED A PRE-FEASIBILITY TO DETERMINE THE DESIRABILITY OF UNDERTAKING THIS PILOT PROJECT. (SEE REF C.) HANSEN DOES NOT CURRENTLY HAVE EXTRA COPIES OF THIS STUDY BUT PROMISED TO LET US HAVE COPIES WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE. HE BELIEVES THE POSSIBILITIES OF GROWING SOYABEANS ARE ONLY MARGINAL IN SUMATRA BUT HE BELIEVES OTHER HIGH PROTEIN FOODSTUFFS MIGHT GROW THERE. THE GOI WILL FINANCE THE PROJECT'S LOCAL COSTS, AMOUNTING TO THE EQUIVALENT OF ABOUT \$250,000.

3. HANSEN SAYS THE EC PLANS TO UNDERTAKE A SIMILAR PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE POTENTIAL OF RAISING HIGH PROTEIN FOODSTUFFS IN NORTHEAST THAILAND. THIS STUDY WILL BE FINANCED FROM THE EC COMMISSION BUDGET. HINTON

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